

2 June, 1958

FANAC

#15

A weekly news and chatterzine from Ron Ellick and Terry Carr, 2315 Dwight Way, Berkeley 4, California. British agent is Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd, North Hykeham, Lincoln, England. Cartoon on left by Bjo. News and commentary happily received.



"One of the guests claims there's a parakeet bathing in his beer!"

GIBSONS RECEIVE BIG WELCOME

Dateline: Berkeley, May 31, '58. Rog & Honey Graham held a welcoming party at their home for Chicago's gift to the Pacific Coast, Joe and Roberta Gibson. The exhausted hosts report, as the dust settles, that the following comprised the largest portion of the attendance: Forrest J Ackerman, Mr & Mrs Poul Anderson, Bjo Wells, Mr & Mrs William (Tony Boucher) White, Mr & Mrs Reg Bretnor, Terry Carr, Alan Dodd, Miriam Dyches, Ron Ellick, Mr & Mrs Bennie Edwards, Mr & Mrs Joe Gibson, Pete Graham, Charles Lear, George Metzger, Larry Ware, Ernie Wheatley, Robin Wood, Sylvia Somebody and Barbara Somebody Else. The combined resources of Berkeley

fandom and two expert hosts might have missed somebody in the final count,

As at most fan-parties, a goodly number of subjects were under discussion, ranging from politics to babies and puns. No room for a quote-cover here, but there were about a paragraph-full of worthy items:

WHAT'S THE CAPITAL OF NEBRASKA? ROUGHLY \$50,000. NO, IT'S LINCOLN, ISN'T IT? SORT OF LIKE WASHINGTON, WHERE THE CAPITAL ISN'T SEATTLE, BUT ASTORIA OR HYSTERIA OR WHATEVER. HYSTERIA ISN'T A CITY, IT'S A STATE. ## I'M PENNILESS... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT; EVEN THE CZAR OF RUSSIA WAS NICHOLAS. ## YOU'RE SO PURE AND UNSULLIED. I'M PERFECTLY WILLING TO BE SULLIED. ## YOU KNOW, THE MOON MOVES AROUND THE EARTH, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP LENGTHENING YOUR TOWER. NO, IN THESE TIMES OF RECESSION WE THINK WE CAN HIRE A MAN TO CARRY THE BASE AND KEEP RUNNING AROUND THE EARTH, FOLLOWING THE MOON. ## THEN HE SAID CASUALLY, "YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT WILLIAM ATHELING JR IS REALLY ----- ?" AND I NODDED SOLEMNLY WHILE TAKING A LONG DRAG ON MY BOLOGNA SANDWICH. ## IF YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD ABOUT THE N.F.F.F., I'LL SEND IN YOUR NAME AND \$1.65 AND YOU'LL BE A FULL MEMBER FOR A WHOLE YEAR. ## PEOPLE WHO GO TO CHURCH ARE HYPOCRITES AND PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD ARE LIARS AND PEOPLE WHO WAKE OTHER PEOPLE UP TO BE CHRISTIANS ARE UNCHRISTIAN.

(cont'd overpage)

(party, cont'd)

Somewhichway, I got to discussing the Tower to the Moon with Poul & Karen Anderson, who seem to me to be very serious students of this project, for they are right up to date on the Turm-inology, and chock full of suggestions on how best to go about it. Poul brought up one thought that dismayed us no end. "When the Moon moves in its orbit about the earth," he said, "your tower will bend, and stretch, and soon circle the planet. Am I right?" I nodded, intend on his every word. "Soon you will run out of beercans," he said, "and the Moon will keep on in its orbit, pulling your tower tighter and tighter around the globe. Finally, whatever foundation you have will not be strong enough, and the whole thing will be uprooted. All the beercans will be flung into satteliticular orbits, forming rings. Do you see the terrible implications in this?" I stared blankly. "Man," he cried, "THE RINGS OF SATURN! It's been done before! You are ruined." I wonder if perhaps science-fiction authors don't have a wee bit too MUCH imagination?

There were many traps for the unsuspecting fan. Terry couldn't talk s-f like he wanted to because Miriam wanted to talk about other things. I found myself trapped by a non-fan, and forced to explain the N3F to him, and why I don't like it, with Honey Wood listening over my shoulder. Reg Bretnor was forced to listen to Joe Gibson's hoary old war stories. And then there was Bjo, running around drawing cartoons like the one on the right, and kissing people. Wow.

—rde.

GOSSIP BY MAIL DEPT:

"I knew somebody once who knew Tom Lehrer in the math department here. It 'pears he was gay, affable, charming, brilliant, and lazy as hell. Fiddle around playing piano instead of working on thesis or whatever, and after he'd been hanging around five years or so, he was either kicked out or drafted or both."

—Jean Young,
Cambridge, Mass; 25th May,
1958.

THE KITCHEN



"—witchcraft, publishing, sex, cats, people-who-aren't-here, and then they discussed fanzines, refrigerators, TV, people-who-are-here —"

OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL

FROM: Anna Sinclare Moffatt, Chairwoman of the 16th World SF Convention.

TO: George Nims Raybin, Legal Advisor of the World SF Society, Inc.

(An excerpt from a letter dated May 17, 1958): Affidavits before me oblige me to the conclusion that we, 'the officers of the Society,' cannot afford to undertake any actions that will leave the Society open to any damage suits. ...

- Therefore, I direct you, as President to the Legal Officer, to vacate judgement on any cases now instituted in the name of the World Science Fiction Society, Inc., and to refrain from instituting any further court actions in the name of the Society without specific directions from the officers of the Executive Committee in agreement to undertake such actions. I am informed by David Kyle that is understood on his part that if satisfaction and withdrawal is accomplished it should be without prejudice to any claim the World Science Fiction Society, Inc., may have against him personally.

FROM: George Nims Raybin. TO: Anna Sinclare Moffatt. (An excerpt from a much longer letter dated May 22, 1958): Pursuant to a request of the Recorder-Historian, I proceeded to attempt collection of the funds due from David A. Kyle to the WSFSInc, which funds consisted of \$50 in petty cash received from the treasurer by checks, \$10 in petty cash taken from the registration desk cash box, and \$47.10 received as petty cash from Art Saha, in addition to checks for advertising in the journals which were turned over to David A. Kyle by Lyn Carter.

My first step was to write him a letter (which) received no response. Thereupon a summons was served upon David A. Kyle by the Sheriff of St. Lawrence County in an action entitled "WSFSInc v David A. Kyle," on 4Feb58. The last day for David A. Kyle to answer the verified complaint was 24Feb58. He failed to answer and was therefore in default. Before filing papers in court, which I felt might cause David A. Kyle unnecessary embarrassment, I requested Mary Dziechowski, Dick Ellington and Jimmy Taurasi to contact him and to stress to him the urgency of contacting me to arrange to discuss the matter, so that it would not be necessary for me to file any papers in court. However, David A. Kyle ignored the requests of these three people and persisted in maintaining his silence.

It was therefore incumbent upon me to proceed to enter a default judgment, which was entered on 6Mar58. In order to give David A. Kyle additional time in which to contact me, I refrained from issuing execution to the Sherriff until March 11th. Not having heard from David A. Kyle, I proceeded to issue said execution.

(An account here, worth half a page, of discussions by phone and in person at the Disclave, which yielded nothing.)

The next word I received was a phone call from our Recorder-Historian, informing me that he had been served with a summons in an action entitled "Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Sullivan, David A. Kyle v George Nims Raybin and Franklin M. Dietz, Jr.", which summons indicated that this was an "Action for Conspiracy." This is the present situation as it existed prior to the receipt of your letter.

I do not, of course, know what affidavits have been submitted to you, but I can assure you that the Society is in no danger of a suit for damages for having secured a valid judgment. I also wish to advise you that if I stipulate to vacate the judgment herein, the Society will be liable for the disbursements and for the fees of the Sherriff, which may exceed the sum of \$50. Are you prepared to obligate the Society for this money by directing me to vacate the judgement herein? Since we (Raybin and Dietz) are being sued as Society officers, do you feel that it is proper for us to surrender what may well end up being a very important part of our defense, solely because you have been threatened, in my opinion, with an unfounded action? I have written to the Sherriff to inform him to take no further action in this matter until he hears further from me and I will take no further action with regard thereto until I hear from you.

I will, of course, abide by any final decision that you reach.

(editorial comment overpage)

ALL THE NEWS AS IT HAPPENS DEPT: The preceeding page was contributed to FANAC by a Bronx, NY, femme named Elaine Phillips, who says that when she saw the letter from Anna, she was "incense enough to request copies of this letter and George's answer from the Recorder-Historian; as a member of WSFSInc I am entitled to such copies. I am enclosing them so that you and your readers can see what is now happening."

It's unfortunate that Mrs. Phillips should send us these letters to defend George Raybin against the unjust actions of Anna Moffatt, for we feel Anna to be fully in the right, and further that Raybin is grasping at straws to save his own hide. The printing of these letters, in part by reason of obvious space limitations, should serve to show in what wise the Recorder-Historian and Legal Advisor view direct orders from the President of their little corporation, and just how far they have gone on their own initiative, without orders telling them to sue or indeed to begin legal action of any sort. Raybin's letter is a wild attempt to retain his best defense against Kyle--an official offense. If this is pulled out from under him, he no doubt realizes that he will be weaponless and undefended against Kyle's lawsuit, not to mention being conceivably liable for all fees due to his unauthorized lawsuits against "David A. Kyle."

If Anna should back down now, it will indeed "set a precedent," as Raybin said in an unprinted portion of his letter. It would set a precedent of weakness on the part of the annually-elected convention committee, and leave the offices of Legal Advisor and Recorder-Historian with no checks whatsoever upon them. The answer to Raybin's letter should be a joy to read.

--rde.

DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMMIT DEPT: There are a batch of fanzines here which arrove this week, and what with finals coming up and all we haven't read them. In fact, we haven't even glanced through them enough to do a halfway intelligent fake-review like we sometimes do. (What, us cover up?) Anyway, the fmz arriving this week were: F AND SF (Pierre Versins, Primerose 38, Lausanne, Switzerland--this is no doubt typical Versins-type stuff, the kind fen like); A 1 SHOT 2 FREE 4 YOU (Versins and Jim Caughran--a short thing concocted on Caughran's visit); THE STF & FANTASY COLLECTOR (G. A. Bibby, 714 Pleasant St., Roseville, Calif.--a second issue, sort of a successor to KAYMAR TRADER); YANDRO (R. & J. Coulson, 105 Stitt St., Wabash, Indiana--another issue of a disconcertingly regular fanzine); and BRENNSCHLUSS (Ken & Irene Potter, 72 Dallas Rd., Lancaster, England, and Dave Wood, 4 Cloverdale Rd., Lancaster--fine farmishness in the British manner, apparently).

ANDREW REISS writes, "Larry T. Shaw is in the process of bringing out a new mag. It will not be science fiction, but rather a monster book. Dan Adkins, fan artist, has started selling to the pros. He'll have a drawing in the monster book I just mentioned, and a couple in future issues of Infinity." He adds that the Shaw mag will be "about the size of Playboy."

LESLIE GERBER notes that Adkins and Bill Pearson "are dropping SATA ILLUSTRATED until Ghu knows when."

JOHN TRIMBLE sends us Adkins' & Pearson's address: The Esquire Hotel, Apt. A-1, 360 W. 45th St., New York, N.Y. (You see how we get our news?)

MIRIAM DYCHES (1428 Rollin St., So. Pasadena, Calif.) is the head of a IASFS committee called the Whatever Happened to Barnaby? Committee. She writes, "If anybody has any information on Crockett Johnson, David Johnson Leish, or the cartoon strip Barnaby, I wure would appreciate it." We sure hope she gets some information for this project, largely because we're Barnaby fans ourselves, but mainly because we hear that IASFS these days shoots committee heads who don't complete their projects.

A POSTCARD FROM TOM SCORTIA DEPT.: "Hon. R. E., T. C., D. R., et al: Thanks for the fanzines which were read and otherwise used most avidly. However, I cannot and will not give you a testimonial. NEITHER R. U. R. NOR FANAC HAVE WET STRENGTH! Hexachloraphiendishly Yours, Tom Scortia."

ALEX BRATMON writes, "Forry had some good news to pass on at the (LASFS) meeting. A second run of FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND is coming off the press. It's the first mag and not a new issue. This denotes Success." It also no doubt gladdens Forry's heart, because for awhile the publishers were considering on making the second edition even more juvenile-aimed than the first, which bothered Forry. # Bratmon goes on, "Forry is also the source of the other bit of info I have. Catherine Moore will take over the course that Henry Kuttner was going to do at the summer campus of USC. You know that he was going to teach SF lit this summer--that was the expectation before he died, that is. Now Catherine is taking over for him."

ALAN DODD HAS BOUGHT A TAPE RECORDER, we hear from George Metzger. (We also hear this from Alan Dodd, but Metzger told us first, and credit where credit is due is our motto.) It's a twin-track job, 3.75 ips only. Up to 600 ft. reels (45 minutes). So now people can hear the voice of Alan Dodd on tape and find out if he really does exist or not. (Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts., England.)

THE INCOMPLEAT BURBEE is still for sale from Ellik & Carr, Inc., at 75¢ apiece. 101 pages, counting covers. 96 of those pages are full of Burbee material, collected from fifteen years of writing. Surely this is testimonial enough. Buy it. # Carr still has lots and lots of fanzines for sale, too. These go grab-bag fashion, 15 for \$1.00. Old ones, new ones, big ones, small ones, some as big as your head, if that's of any concern to you.

ANDREW REISS and LESLIE GERBER have split up their co-editorship of READER'S DIGESTED and MISC., and starting with numbers 5 and 2 respectively of these fmz they will be going their separate ways. "We disagreed too much so we decided to split up," they say. Gerber will take RD and Reiss will have MISC.

--tgc

S O L A C O N A C : by George W. Fields

Part of the Pacific Rocket Society's participation in the SOLACON is to host at a convention party room. There's all sorts of purposes for such a room. Foremost, if you don't want to watch the program or there's a sudden shortage of fans, the party room will be open for all such conventioners. This room maintains twenty-four hour rocket firings intended to raise the roof. If you aren't fond of loud noises, you won't mind the party room because all rockets are equipped with silencers. Unfortunate that this increases the production of smoke from the rockets and causes what is known as "They've tried to tell me, now I know! So this is Los Angeles smog!"

Well, the smog isn't as menacing as Florida would like it to be, but when any rockets are fired, don't hold your breath. It's much better to die breathing...

And before you take another breath, take a look--that time approaches and hotel and banquet reservations are, as always, sorely needed. Memberships, too--\$1.00 for membership card, bulletins and program and another \$1.00 if you plan to attend. Send to Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif. Also, World Science Fiction Society buttons (used on lips) are available from Ted Johnstone, 1503 Rollin St., So. Pasadena, Calif. for \$1.00. And, yes, there will be a program. too.

--GwF

New York